

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03182 041107Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

RUEHCR/USINT HAVANA 10

USCINCEUR VAIINGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 03182

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MASS PBOR SO ET IR

SUBJ: SPECIAL EMISSARY TO SOMALIA AND PROSPECTS FOR ERITREA

REF: A. STATE 81714, B. ADDIS ABABA 1399 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MEETING APRIL 3 AMBASSADOR BRIEFED MFA UNDER-
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 03182 041107Z

SECRETARY ZELLI ON THE MISSION OF U.S. EMISSARY TO SOMALIA
MOOSE ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPHS 1 A-H OF REF A. ZELLI SAID HE
WAS INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT PROVISION OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT
CONTINUES UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW IN USG. HE NOTED USEFUL PUBLIC
STATEMENTS BY SIAD BARRE, BUT THOUGHT ETHIOPIANS KEPT RAISING
THE ANTE, MOST RECENTLY DEMANDING WAR REPARATIONS AS WELL.
THIS WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SIAD BARRE TO MEET THE CON-

DITIONS FOR ALKS IN NIGERIA AS PROPOSED.

2. ZELLI SAID THE CURRENT TATUS QUO IN THE OGADEN IS ALL RIGHT FROM GOI POINT OF VIEW, AS LONG AS THE ETHIOPIANS DO NOT CROSS THE BORDER. HE THOUGHT A SWITCH OF ETHIIOPIAN EFFORTS TO ERITREA WOULD PRESENT MANY MORE PROBLEMS FOR THE ETHIOPIANS AND THEIR BACKERS. FOR ONE THING, HE DID NOT SEE HOW "SOME PEOPLE," WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING MARXIST SEPARATIST ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS COULD NOW SWITCH SIDES SO EASILY. REAL GUERRILLA WARFARE WOULD DEVELOP, HE THOUGHT, IF CUBAN COMMIT FORCES IN SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA IN ERITREA.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, ZELLI OPINED THAT IF ETHIOPIANS DID NOT GET CONTROL OF ERITREA, AND SOVIETS REMAINED OUT OF SOMALIA, THAT WOULD PRESENT A TOLERABLE SITUATION SINCE SOVIETS WOULD BE DENIED SECURE ACCESS TO THE SEA. IN THIS REGARD, AMBASSADOR FOUND ZELLI'S PRESENTATION FAR LESS GLOOMY ON THE HORN THAN HAS BEEN GOI'S WONT RECENTLY.

4. THIS TRACKS WELL WITH CONVERSATION POLCOUNS HAD A FEW DAYS AGO WITH MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT HEAD. LATTER SAID GOI IS MORE RELAXED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ERITREA THAN IT WAS ON SOMALIA, SINCE ERITREA IS GEOGRAPHICALLY MORE A CONCERN FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES THAN FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, MFA IS HOLDING A WATCHING BRIEF ONLY ON ERITREA.

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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 03182 041107Z

5. COINCIDENTALLY, DURING HIS RECENT ORIENTATION TRIP TO JIDDA, POLCOUNS WAS TOLD BY SAUDI MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA AND ASIA SARRAJ THAT SAUDIS ARE WATCHING ERITREAN SITUATION VERY CAREFULLY. AS ETHIOPIANS SWITCH THEIR ATTENTION TO ERITREA, MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLY LIFELINE TO SUDAN BECOMES ALL-IMPORTANT FOR ERITREANS. SARRAJ SAID THAT WAS THE REASON ELF AND EPLF LEADERS HAD AGREED TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNITY AT NUMARYI'S URGIN (JIDDA 1847). HOWEVER, SARRAJ SAID HE KNEW THE TWO ERITREAN LEADERS CONCERNED WELL AND WAS SURE THEY COULD NEVER COOPERATE ON A PERMANENT BASIS. EPLF IS MUCH TOO RADICAL IN ANY CASE. MOREOVER, BOTH LEADERS ARE PRIMARILY MILITARY MEN WHO SEEK A MILITARY SOLUTION. SAUDIS ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING POLITICAL SOLUTION THROUGH REFERRAL OF THE ERITREAN ISSUE TO THE UN, IN VIEW OF UN RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUTTING ERITREA UNDER ETHIOPIAN CONTROL BACK IN 1950. CONTRARY TO WHAT WE HAD HEARD ABOUT OAU ATTITUDES, SARRAJ EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT ERITREANS WOULD GET OOOD RESULTS FROM THE UN IF THEY PUT THEIR CASE THERE. THEREFORE, HE INDICATED, SAUDIS ARE PRESENTLY SUPPORTING THIRD GROUP (PLF) UNDER OSMAN, WHO UNDERSTANDS POLITICAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM BETTER THAN THE OTHER LEADERS.

6. MEANWHILE FORMER IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN KHARTOUM ELM-MOTLAO HAS

BEEN ARRESTED HERE FOR LARGE-SCALE EMBEZZLEMENT OF EMBASSY FUNDS
(TEHRAN SEPTTEL). DEPUTY HEAD OF SOUTH ASIAN DEPARTMENT
HERE IS PREPARING TO GO TO KHARTOUM AND STAND IN AS CHARGE
FOR A MONTH OR TWO UNTIL NEW AMBASSADOR CAN BE APPOINTED.
SULLIVAN

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